

Memorandum to the Deputy Chairman

August 4, 1952

Subject: The Byelorussians

I had a call yesterday from Mr. Abramchik who came to Munich in great secrecy. He wanted to see me but asked me not to tell anybody he was in town. I talked to him at his hotel. His purpose of coming was to calm the Munich Byelorussians who got very excited about the threat of the Ukrainian Rada of denouncing Byelorussians for cooperation with us. It seems that the local leader, Dr. Stankevich, was contacted by the Ukrainian Rada and told that unless the Byelorussians severed their connection with the American Committee, they would be attacked in the Ukrainian press for selling their national ideals. They also told him that the Ukrainians were organizing a coordinating Center in competition with ours, a Center that will exclude the Russians. The English General Fuller and Stetsko are supposed to arrive here in about a week and will help organize that Center. The Byelorussians were asked to join that Center. Dr. Stankevich was shown a letter from a leader of another group of Byelorussians, Mr. Ostrowski, who offered to participate in the Ukrainian Center if the Russians were excluded. In my pocket I had a letter from the Ostrowski group addressed to the American Committee a copy of which I am attaching hereto. As you see this is a strongly russophile letter. In other words, Ostrowski is anxious to join somebody and does not care whom he joins. As the letter was addressed to us and copies were sent to many organizations, I felt free to show the letter to Mr. Abramchik. He thought that at some future date if we consent, he may use this letter in an attack on Ostrowski if the latter joins the Ukrainian Center. Mr. Abramchik told me that he was able to calm his friends here and convince them of the necessity of cooperating with us.

Mr. Abramchik told me that Mr. Tsintsadze was organizing a bloc of nationalities in Paris which would include organizations not cooperating with us now but whom he intends to bring into the Center. They would include the Ukrainians, the Bashnaks, other groups of North Caucasians and others, and he would like the Abramchik group to join that bloc. I have heard rumors of Tsintsadze's activities in this field and there is considerable resentment among the nationalities here. In particular Mr. Avtorkhanov (Kunta), the head of SKANO, found out that Tsintsadze was negotiating with other North Caucasians who had been in opposition both to SKANO and to the American Committee. As Avtorkhanov was not even informed of such secret negotiations, he told Tsintsadze bluntly what he thought of his methods. Their conversation ended in a friendly way but the suspicion of Tsintsadze's activities is spreading.

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